

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows.

Page 1, line 23 to page 2, line 16:

With the spread of the Internet to homes and businesses, the above model has evolved to provide shared computation and communication resources to multiple users over the Internet. A typical web site (~~example: www.yahoo.com~~) embodies this model of resource sharing in the sense that the multiple users accessing the web site make use of the shared resources. Web server's computational resources, associated storage, bandwidth of the communication link^{[[5]]} which connects the web site to the Internet and the software applications running on the web site, are some examples of such resources.

Q1 In this model, the organization owning the web site typically pays for these resources. It may or may not charge the internet users for accessing the web site. The demand for various resources mentioned above (for a web site) changes with time due to the fluctuation in the number of users accessing the web site and the applications that they may use from time to time. In the above model of web site hosting, the resources have to be adequate to take care of the peak demand otherwise some users will not be able to access the site when the demand is high. This results in under-utilization of the resources on an average, and hence higher costs for running the web sites. The resource utilization can be improved if multiple web sites share their computation and communication resources, so that at a time when a particular web site does not require too many resources, the same can be used to service the needs of some other web site, which needs those resources at that point of time.

Page 11, line 12:

Brief Description of the Drawings

Page 16, lines 16-22:

(b) Customer Agent's Behaviour Behavior

Figure 4 shows the behavior of a typical customer agent for allocation or release of a shared resource. Initially, every customer has a set of dedicated resources at its disposal and no customer has a resource from the shared resource pool allocated to it. At a point of time, let P_L denote the price rate for the unit of resource last acquired by the customer from the shared resource pool and not yet released back. Initially, P_L is set to the reserve price (4.1).

Page 20, line 4:

(a) Resource Center Agent's Behaviour Behavior

Page 20, line 20:

(a) Customer Agent's Behaviour Behavior

Page 21, line 21:

(a) Resource Center Agent's Behaviour Behavior

Page 23, line 15:

(a) Customer Agent's Behaviour Behavior